

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
June 3, 2003

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, June 3, 2003, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield. Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and Councilman Hudson gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Members present :

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Others present:

Wayne Adams, County Administrator
John F. Byrd, County Attorney
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council
Margaret B. Harling, Finance Director
and others as per list attached

Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve the following minutes of meetings held by County Council:

May 6, 2003, Regular Meeting of Edgefield County Council
May 6, 2003, Public Hearings
May 15, 2003, Budget Work Session

Motion carried.

Reports

The Administrator spoke on the memorandum concerning the agreement with the towns for jail, dispatch, and Summary Court Services. Mr. Adams wanted council to know that if during the comment period council wishes to change or modify the agreement it has to let the towns know no later than the end of this calendar year. Ideally, however, comments should be submitted by September 15, 2003. This would give everyone plenty of time to make any comments and have staff research any changes that are suggested. This memorandum will be sent to the towns and magistrates and the sheriff this week. The agreement goes from July 1st until June 30th. Renews itself automatically on July 1, 2004 for another five year term, but if we want to change anything about the agreement we have to let them know by the end of this calendar year.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
June 3, 2003

Ordinances

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-435, "An Ordinance Providing for the FY 2003-2004 General Operating Budget, and to Establish Budgets Pertaining to Debt Service, E-911 Administration, Solid Waste Disposal, Victims' Bill of Rights, EMS, Recreation and Certain Capital Expenditures." (As amended at the May 15, 2003, work session.) Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-436, "An Ordinance Adopting the 2002 National Electrical Code (NEC) Relating to Inspection Activities Concerning Electrical Applications and Providing for Enforcement of the Provisions of Said Code." Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Dorn made a motion to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 03-04-437, "An Ordinance Jointly Enacted by the County of Edgefield and Certain Incorporated Municipalities within Edgefield County to Provide for a Centralized Countywide Recreation Program, and to Establish a County-Operated Special Revenue Fund for Purposes of Funding the Program's Activities." Motion was seconded by Councilman Kitchens. Motion carried unanimously.

Council asked for an explanation concerning the next ordinance (ordinance 03-04-438, "An Ordinance Amending the Edgefield County Zoning Map to Change the Zoning Designation of Tax Map Parcel #174-00-00-029 from Industrial Development to General Agricultural Development (GD).") This parcel is directly across from the Industrial Park and is owned by Donnie Thompson. Mr. Thompson has appeared before Planning Commission. Only parcel on that side designated as industrial development – seeking to change it to General Development. Believe this is a fall-back in case none of the other plans for the property comes through in respect to industrial development. It is called General Agricultural but it is a General Development district. Property value will change if it is improved by some use. Depends on what is built there. General Development is the first parcel, or the first 500 ft. from the road right of way. It is more liberal as far as restrictions on development. Think there is a commercial use intended if some of the industrial prospects don't come through. When its use is changed and the new owner takes it over or it is improved by the present owner, taxes can be rolled back at that time. Zoning will not affect that. Zoning will not affect the assessment ratio, the property value assigned to it remains the same until there is an improvement on it. It only affects what can go there, and changing it to General Development opens it up for more kinds of commercial development. The motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 03-04-438, "An Ordinance Amending the Edgefield County Zoning Map to Change the Zoning Designation of Tax Map Parcel #174-00-00-029 from Industrial Development to General

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
June 3, 2003

Agricultural Development (GD).” Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 03-04-439, “An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances for Edgefield County, South Carolina.” (Supplement #6).

No Resolutions.

New Business

Mr. John Rikard, Veterans Affairs Officer for Edgefield County, gave an update on the VA office. Mr. Rikard thanked the council and the administrator for all of their help given to the VA office in the past, and this is just an update for information purposes. According to the census, there are about 2000 veterans in the county; up considerable since the last time Mr. Rikard addressed council. He stated that with the deaths of veterans and widows now bringing in about one half million dollars more than last year. At \$3,500,000.00 in this county alone. Outside the county, including parts of Saluda, Aiken, and McCormick Counties we are at about \$750,000 – up from \$500,000 last year. Steadily doing a lot of work. When the National Guard comes back expect to be doing a lot more. Only 59 people who are residents of Edgefield County went with the National Guard – rest from other counties.

Old Business

Mrs. Kitty Wates (Secretary/Treasurer, Health Professional Scholarship program) was present to give a status report on the Edgefield County Health Professional Scholarship program. Mrs. Wates: “I have talked with all of the members of this committee and we are in agreement on the recommendation that the committee be discontinued. The reason for this is that most of the scholarship recipients are not coming back to Edgefield County to work, and it is very difficult to collect from those who do not come back. There was not very much opportunity for employment in Edgefield County for work at the time the scholarship was instituted. There are other scholarships available if a student has good grades. The committee did not want to fund students that did not have good grades anyway. We also would like to recommend that if county council feels there is a need to provide an incentive to help professionals to come to the county that you consider the recommendation that we are making: If a health professional graduate of a four year institution comes to Edgefield County to work immediately after graduation and continues for at least one year, the county would pay \$1,000 on any outstanding student loans at the end of the first year of employment. This option would be available for up to four years. If the health professional graduate is of a two-year institution, the payment would be \$500 per year for up to four years. This would make them do the work before the county would reimburse them and this would be considerably less per recipient than most of the recipients are getting now. (Attached is list of fund balances and outstanding loans). There are three loans to people that are currently employed in the county, as far as I can tell from the records. They would owe no funds. There are five current loans that the

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 3, 2003

status needs to be determined. Know there is one not employed in the county – working at Aiken Regional Hospital. Some amortization schedule would need to be set up for those. Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to accept Ms. Wates' recommendation. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Wates stated that would be glad to help the person that will be working this.

Supplemental Agenda

Economic Development Committee is requesting \$5,000 to assist in producing a video to market Edgefield County. The cost is approximately \$10,000.00. The towns will be asked to assist, and anyone else willing to assist; maybe the Economic Development Partnership. This is to update our strategic plan. Chairman Kneece recommended council donate \$5,000, provided the remaining money could be obtained from other sources. County's \$5,000 will not be spent until the rest of the funding is raised from other sources. This is for prospective industries that might be looking to build facilities in the southeast. Would market the community, the industrial park, downtowns, our geographic location in terms of its nearness to Augusta, Ga. and Aiken; healthcare facilities. Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve the request from Economic Development of a maximum of \$5,000.00. Motion carried with four yeas and one nay.

Also on the supplemental agenda for consideration was a letter to SC Legislative Delegation concerning widening of US Highway 25. The widening of US Highway 25 to four lanes between the Pine House and Beacon Filtration is a goal established in the county's strategic plan for economic development. Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the letter to SC Legislative Delegation concerning the widening of US Highway 25. Motion carried unanimously.

GUESTS

Mr. John Tanks addressed council to ask for some financial assistance to renovate Hillary Branch Society, located in Johnston off Hatcher Road. Building is falling down. Have approximately 65 active members (mutual aid society, assists in burying). Mr. Tanks stated they had applied through Upper Savannah for a CDBG grant to assist in this project. Councilmen Bright and Kneece serve on this board but neither remembered this request being brought before the board. Upper Savannah did send someone to look at the building but that has been the end of it. Mr. Kneece and Mr. Bright will check with Upper Savannah and council will view the building.

Mr. Johnny Anderson wanted council to know he and Mike Herlihy were present to answer any questions council had concerning the airport. Mr. Anderson stated he felt the public has been misinformed. Councilman Bright wanted to know if there are any FAA regulations on ultra lites? "Yes sir. FAR103. That pertains to the ultra lites. Have about 14 ultra lites and about 14 conventional airplanes at the airport. There were three

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
June 3, 2003

airplanes based at the airport when we moved in. Now, there are 28 – eight from Edgefield County and everyone there is from South Carolina; one from Georgia. Pay taxes based on residency.

Claims approved as follows:

A.	PAYROLL:	4/28/03 thru 5/11/03
	Regular.....	\$91,818.04
	PAYROLL:	5/12/03 thru 5/25/03
	Regular.....	\$90,791.76
B.	GENERAL OPERATING.....	\$325,859.47

No Executive Session.

Adjourn.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 1, 2003.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

ATTEST

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

